



El Kinder Camino Portugués Tour No-Trip Trip Report
October 1 – 17, 2020

This is life in the era of covid-19.

Another trip bit the dust. Another Camino lost.

I am now rebooked for this similar trip for late September 2021.

Thu Oct 1

? Depart Newark EWR via _____

Fri Oct 2

? Arrive Porto OPO

Hotel by Fresco add on 3 nights

Mon Oct 5 – Day 1 of tour

Start tour in Porto

Description: 11 days & 10 nights: The Last 129 km to Santiago

Come join us on our kinder version of the Camino Portugués! We'll enjoy the same charming scenery of the Iberian Peninsula, but at a lighter, gentler pace. Our good friend, the yellow arrow, will keep us company as we cross over the River Miño and enter into Spain. Our Camino also takes us through the town of Padrón, where Santiago's stone boat brought him back to Spain.

Day 1: Porto to Guimarães We pick-up the group in the afternoon in Porto and head for the countryside to the birthplace of Portugal as an independent country, Guimarães. In 1100, Portugal's first King, Afonso Henriques, was born inside the thick walls of the medieval castle that overlooks the town. Before dinner we have a stroll and then sit down for our Orientation Meeting to discuss our journey along the Camino de Santiago.

Accommodations: Guimarães (D)

Day 2: Vitorino de Piaes to Ponte de Lima After breakfast, we hop in the van and shuttle to Vitorino where we hit the trail and have a warm up of our week to follow. We lace up our boots to take our first steps on the Camino, getting our first stamp in the parish town of Vitorino de Piaes! We finish in the lovely river valley town of Ponte de Lima. What are all those Roman soldiers doing here?

Accommodations: Ponte de Lima (B,L,D) / Walking: 12 km or 8 mi

Day 3: Valença to Orbenlle From the fortress town of Valença, we cross over the River Miño and enter into Spain. As both Portugal and Spain are European Union members, the only passport you'll

need is your Pilgrim's Passport, but remember that the word for stamp will change from carimbo to sello. Once across the border, we admire the 12th century Santa Maria Cathedral in Tui.

Accommodations: Tui (B,L,D) / Walking 11 km or 7 mi

Day 4: Orbenlle to Mos In the morning, we pass through O Porriño, a town known for its unique city hall architecture and its prized granite cutting mills. We continue on to Mos, where the Louro River and the quiet Galician countryside keep us company before returning for another lovely evening in Tui. (B, L, D)

Accommodations: Tui (B,L,D) / Walking: 12 km or 8 mi

Day 5: Mos to Arcade Today we get the blood pumping with a good climb up to the Monte de Santiago de Antas, where we find another Roman mile marker to remind us that we are getting closer. The Camino then takes us to Redondela. Here we get our first glimpse of the Estuary of Vigo, where mussels and scallops are farmed on floating barges! Accommodations: Pontevedra (B,L,D) / Walking: 17 km or 11 mi

Day 6: Arcade to Pontevedra Our walk takes us by the beautiful stone arches of the old Ponte Sampaio, the scene of an important town battle against Napoleonic troops in 1809. Back in Pontevedra for the evening, we must stop in and get a stamp at La Peregrina, the 18th century chapel whose floor is in the shape of a scallop shell!

Accommodations: Pontevedra (B,L,D) / Walking: 11 km or 7 mi

Day 7: Pontevedra to El Parque Natural de Ria Barosa Leaving the city of Pontevedra, we quickly return to nature, crossing through quiet, wooded paths where we come to the granite Cross of Amonisa with the carved figure of Santiago facing our destination. We finish our day in Caldas de Reis, whose natural thermal springs have made this a place to soak your weary feet for thousands of years.

Accommodations: Caldas de Rei (B,L,D) / Walking: 15 km or 9 mi

Day 8: El Parque Natural de Ria Barosa to San Miguel Wander along the Camino through one of Galicia's best treasures today: the pleasant vineyards that produce the Rias Baixas region's most popular white wine, Albariño. A favorite story, but with little truth, is that the Albariño grape was brought to the region by German pilgrims on their way to Santiago. While it's true origin remains a mystery, its flavor continues to captivate many.

Accommodations: Caldas de Rei (B,L,D) / Walking: 17 km or 11 mi

Day 9: San Miguel to Rua de Francos Padrón (or pedrón – Galician for big stone) pays homage to the famous rock where the boat that contained Saint James was moored to upon its arrival from Jerusalem after he had been martyred. Padrón is also famous in culinary circles for its little green peppers, some which are hot and others that are not.

Accommodations: Padrón (B,L,D) / Walking: 21 km or 13 mi

Day 10: Rua de Francos to Santiago de Compostela 8 days, 129 kilometers, and we have arrived in Santiago de Compostela. Congratulations! You are going to love this magical city filled with fantastic monuments and a lively buzz from the international pilgrims and university students that fill its

medieval streets. After requesting our Compostela certificates at the Pilgrims' Office, we head to our hotel and get ready for our evening celebratory dinner!

Accommodations: Santiago de Compostela (B,L,D) / Walking: 13 km or 8 mi

Day 11: Santiago de Compostela After a buffet breakfast, our local historian gives us a closer look at the amazing Cathedral that has seen so many transformations since the original chapel built in the 9th century. After the tour, we sadly say our last "buen camino" as we leave you at the Cathedral in time for the Pilgrims' Mass at noon. (B)

Add on 1 night in Santiago

Travel to Madrid – needed

Hotel at airport needed

Sat Oct 17

? Depart Madrid MAD to Newark – currently through BXL on miles

The Compostela & the Camino de Santiago Tour This itinerary gives you the opportunity to walk the last 100 km into Santiago. This is a requirement needed to request the compostela, the certificate granted by the church of Santiago upon the completion of the pilgrimage. It is not mandatory, however, to walk 100 km (60 miles) to participate in this Fresco Tour. As with all our trips, your walk is accompanied by a support van and shorter walk options are available on a daily basis.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Expect to have a wonderful time! We've designed each trip to enjoy the stunning beauty of the Portuguese and Spanish landscape, while giving you a true sense of these mysterious people and their culture. We love to share this magnificent country and want you to feel a part of it.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

2 Guides: Our greatest resource! We know Spain, because it is our home. Both of your guides are experienced professionals that are either Spanish or live in Spain year-round – no hired out summer help! When specified, local art historians will join us to provide further insights of the specific monument / museum that we visit. * Groups of 3 - 6 pax are accompanied by only 1 guide.

Meals: Food speaks volumes about a culture and we love to eat! During our walk days, when possible, we prepare gourmet picnics using the freshest of local ingredients and selecting the tastiest recipes of the region. All breakfast, lunches and dinners are included. We are proud to cater to vegetarians and those with food allergies – milk, egg, wheat, etc.

Accommodation: Fresco Tours selects a combination of 3-4 star hotels and restored country manors that offer the best in hospitality, comfort and location. In this area, these are known as Pazos and Pousadas and are very unique and special - some date back to the 15th century! All rooms have ensuite baths. Tour prices are based on double occupancy.

Limited Group Sizes: Fresco Tours are in small groups to ensure that you receive the individual attention that you deserve. We want to be able to treat each of our clients with a personal touch and we limit the groups to a maximum of 15 participants. We also recognize that each person's Camino

is their own personal experience and if you wish, we encourage you to walk on your own – with the assurance that we will be there for you!

Local Guided Visits: In Guimarães and Santiago, we will be joined by local art historians, who will bring the monuments and cities to life! A minimum of 5 people is necessary for this service to be provided.

Support Vehicles: Your walks will be accompanied by 2 support vehicles (minimum 6 pax) that are there to provide assistance when needed and look out for your safety. You will have access to the bus every couple of hours, so you won't need to carry a heavy backpack. In addition, the possibility of shorter routes and pick-up options will be offered and explained on a daily basis.

Ground transportation: All ground transportation between our meeting point in Porto, Portugal and the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela is provided on your Fresco Tour.

Luggage transfers: Your luggage will be transported between hotels. You do the walking, we'll do the lifting!

Pre-Tour Assistance: We will help with your travel arrangements prior to and after the tour start and finish of your Fresco Tour, including assistance with hotel reservations and train tickets.